

**JOHNSON**  
**Serial No. 09/048,838**

Page 3, ~~delete~~ line 23 in its entirety.

Page 4, before line 1, ~~insert~~ the following heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

~~delete~~ line 9 in its entirety.

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claim 1 and add newly written claims 14-17 as follows:

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1. (Amended) A fairing arrangement for bridging an aircraft fixed structure

and a control surface hingedly mounted on and angularly displaceable with respect  
to said aircraft structure, said fairing arrangement including:

    a first fairing portion located on said fixed aircraft structure,

    a second fairing portion located on said control surface, and

    an intermediate flexible seal member disposed between said first and second

*A,*    fairing portions and having a proximal edge region fixed relative to one of said  
    first and second fairing portions and a distal edge region,

    wherein said flexible seal member comprises a composite sheet element of  
    rubber or rubber-like material incorporating a plurality of reinforcing plies across  
    at least part of said sheet element, each ply comprising one or more fabric  
    elements, whereby the flexible seal member [arrangement] is deformable to

accommodate differential movement between said first and second fairing portions [when said control surface is angularly displaced with respect to the fixed aircraft structure] and said flexible seal member [arrangement] defines a surface which generally conforms to the adjacent portions of said first and second fairing portions [throughout at least a major extent of the range of said angular displacement of said control surface].

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A<sub>1</sub> 14. A fairing arrangement for bridging an aircraft fixed structure and a control surface hingedly mounted on and angularly displaceable with respect to said aircraft structure, said fairing arrangement including:

a first fairing portion located on said fixed aircraft structure,  
a second fairing portion located on said control surface, and  
an intermediate flexible seal member disposed between said first and second

A<sub>2</sub> fairing portions and having a proximal edge region fixed relative to one of said first and second fairing portions and a distal edge region,

wherein said flexible seal member comprises a composite sheet element of rubber or rubber-like material incorporating a plurality of reinforcing plies across at least part of said sheet element, each ply comprising one or more fabric elements and at least one ply comprising a plurality of fabric elements, whereby

the flexible seal member is deformable to accommodate differential movement between said first and second fairing portions and said flexible seal member defines a surface which generally conforms to the adjacent portions of said first and second fairing portions throughout at least a major extent of the range of said angular displacement of said control surface.

15. A fairing arrangement for bridging an aircraft fixed structure and a control surface hingedly mounted on and angularly displaceable with respect to said aircraft structure, said fairing arrangement including:

a first fairing portion located on said fixed aircraft structure,

a second fairing portion located on said control surface, and

*A<sub>2</sub>*  
(con't) an intermediate flexible seal member disposed between said first and second fairing portions and having a proximal edge region fixed relative to one of said first and second fairing portions and a distal edge region,

wherein said flexible seal member comprises a composite sheet element of rubber or rubber-like material incorporating a plurality of reinforcing plies across at least part of said sheet element, each ply comprising one or more fabric elements and at least one ply comprising a plurality of fabric elements wherein each of said plurality of fabric elements is butted against a neighbouring fabric

element in the same ply without significant overlap, whereby the flexible seal member is deformable to accommodate differential movement between said first and second fairing portions and said flexible seal member defines a surface which generally conforms to the adjacent portions of said first and second fairing portions.

16. In a fairing arrangement for bridging an aircraft fixed structure and a control surface, said fixed structure including a first fairing portion located on said fixed structure, said control surface including a second fairing portion located on said control surface, wherein said improvement comprises an intermediate flexible seal member disposed between said first and second fairing portions and having a proximal edge region fixed relative to one of said first and second fairing portions and a distal edge region adjacent to the other of said first and second fairing portions, wherein said flexible seal member comprises a composite sheet element of at least rubber like material incorporating a plurality of reinforcing plies across at least part of said sheet element, each reinforcing ply comprising one or more fabric elements, whereby the flexible seal member is deformable to accommodate differential movement between said first and second fairing portions and said

*A<sub>2</sub>  
(con't)*